



Q. D. Lawrence
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8/20/2003

MULLE20.001APC

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : De Heus, E.
Appl. No. : 09/230,001
Filed : May 18, 1999
For : STERILISATION APPARATUS
Examiner : Thornton, K.
Group Art Unit : 1744

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AUG 18 2003
TC 1700

DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.132

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

1. This Declaration is being submitted to clarify the differences between the presently claimed invention and the prior art invention of Kalasek et al.

2. I am the inventor on the above-identified patent application and am familiar with the prosecution history.

3. I have extensive experience and knowledge of the history, production and use of sterilisers in the health care industry as evidenced by my attached curriculum vitae (Exhibit A).

4. A cylindrical boiler is advantageous because it can withstand higher pressures than other shapes. This is because the high pressure requires that an even pressure be applied to all parts of the boiler. A rectangular autoclave as taught by Kalasek, et al could not be configured to be high pressure because it is absolutely impossible for an autoclave which must have a pressurized vessel to be rectangular.


5. The method of pulsatingly introducing steam and pulsatingly applying vacuum is advantageous because it provides for the removal of substantially all air from hollow parts. This will ensure that steam will contact all parts which are to be sterilised. If the air and steam are not completely removed after sterilisation, a complete sterilisation will not result. Therefore, the pulsating application of steam and vacuum allows for a better, more efficient sterilisation. This

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is particularly advantageous in sterilisers having a volume of 10 to 50 Liters because at small volumes it is difficult for steam to reach diffusion-resistant spaces such as those in hollow parts.

6. I declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful, false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or patent issuing therefrom.

Dated: 15-07-2002

By: 
Evert B. De Heus

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